

**Before the
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**Investigation by the Department of
Telecommunications and Energy on its
own motion regarding (1) implementation
of Section 276 of the Telecommunications
Act of 1996 relative to Public Interest
Payphones, (2) Entry and Exit Barriers
for the Payphone Marketplace, (3) New
England Telephone and Telegraph
Company d/b/a NYNEX's Public Access)
Smart-Pay Line Service, and (4) the rate
policy for operator service providers.**

D.P.U./D.T.E. 97-88/97-18 (Phase II)

Motion For Extension Of Time To File Comments

On February 21, 2003, the Hearing Officer issued a Memorandum requesting, among other things, that (a) Verizon Massachusetts ("Verizon") file certain proposed revised PAL and PASL rates on March 3, 2003 and (b) that the New England Public Communications Council, Inc. ("NEPCC") and other interested parties file initial comments on two questions raised in the memorandum by March 14, 2003; reply comments would be due by March 21, 2003

In accordance with Section 1.02(5) of the Department's Procedural Rules, 220 CMR Section 102(5), the NEPCC hereby respectfully moves that the deadlines for filing comments be extended to Monday March 31, 2003 and Monday April 14, 2003, respectively. The previous commitments of the NEPCC's long-time expert in this case Mr. Don Wood are such that he would not be able to meaningfully assist in the review of Verizon's filing and the preparation of comments during the original time frames set by the Hearing Officer's Memorandum. In light of the extensive time resources expended in this proceeding to date, this additional time is warranted so that the NEPCC

may provide the Department with its fully informed comments on these issues. Counsel for Verizon has indicated that she does not object to this request. The undersigned counsel has received no indicated from any other interested party of any objection to the proposed extension.

WHEREFORE, the NEPCC respectfully moves that the time to file comments in accordance with the Memorandum be extended to Monday, March 31, 2003 for initial comments and Monday, April 14, 2003 for reply comments.

Respectfully submitted,

**NEW ENGLAND PUBLIC
COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL, INC.**

By: _____/S/
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Paul C. Besozzi, hereby certify that I have this 4th day of March, 2003, served a copy of the foregoing **"Motion For Extension Of Time To File Comments"** in MDTE Docket D.P.U./D.T.E. 97-88/97-18 (Phase II), upon the following parties by electronic and first class mail:

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